



## **NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 25, 2016, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- **R.O.C.A.N. Garden** had approx. 48 pavers stolen from beds on June 1st. ***If anyone knows of a source for used/inexpensive pavers, please call Jean Baltz at 376-1991.***
- **St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology Community Garden** needs help cutting down branches that threaten to fall on top of gardeners (or entire tree). ***If anyone can help cut branches, please call Michael Merritt at 650-2875.***
- **Fresh Veggies Idlewild** love some herb cuttings to fill out their herb bed. ***If you can offer any herb cuttings, call Amy at: 519-0657.***

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- **TODAY, Thurs June 2: Final plant giveaway** in the NLR City Services parking lot! Look for Beau at 4:30 PM.
- Contact numbers for Beau and Sara:
  - Beau: (501) 563-7775
  - Sara: (864) 915-8334
- **Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 22, 3:30-4:30 PM**
- **Smart Watering Workshop Saturday, June 25, 9–11 AM**, Dogtown Farmers Market (with hands-on olla making!)
- ***See our Community Garden e-newsletter for more garden tips, upcoming workshops and events!***

### **Committee members present:**

**Fresh Veggies Idlewild** (Amy Cates)

**NLR Employee Garden – City Services** (Jennifer Johansen)

**NLR Fit 2 Live** (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper, Sara Webb)

**NLR Neighborhood Services** (Dan Scott)

**R.O.C.A.N. Community Garden** (Jean Baltz)

**Skyline Community Garden** (Diane Barton)

**St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden** (Ruth Landers)

**St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology Community Garden** (Michael Merritt, Felecia Love)

**St. Patrick's Community Garden** (Robby McAllister)

### **3:30-3:40 Welcome & Introductions**

### **3:40-3:45 Approval of Minutes**

Ruth Landers made revision of SJCA Garden update from March. Bernadette had incorrectly recorded “keyhole beds” as “communal beds.” SJCA Garden does not have any communal beds. Minutes were revised to: “20 total beds. Has waiting list.”

Robby McAllister made motion to approve minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jennifer Johansen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **3:45-4:00    Fit 2 Live Updates**

#### **Things to plant now**

- Anything you haven't planted yet, all summer crops – ASAP!
- The planting dates Beau sends out in his emails are the EARLIEST possible planting dates. You can still plant things later, but your growing season will be shorter.

#### **Available seeds and starts**

- Fit 2 Live has seeds available for almost any veggie you would want. Contact Beau or Sara to pick up.
- Beau and Sara distributed winter squash and eggplant starts after the meeting.
- Robby McAllister indicated a need for okra seeds

#### **Arkansas GardenCorps New Member Recruitment**

- Fit 2 Live has option to bring on ONE FULL-TIME or TWO PART-TIME members for the 2016-2017 service term.
- Committee indicated that it would prefer one full-time member so the member will have more flexibility and be 100% focused on Fit 2 Live.
- However, this will require garden managers to help member more, such as with unloading compost, transporting the tiller, etc. The committee indicated that this is a good practice to get the managers into anyway.
- We have made two offers to potential members: First was regretfully declined and second will get back to us with her decision by Monday, June 6.

#### **Funding report**

- Gardens whose reporting is still incomplete:
  - 4 The Youth: Still owes receipts for total \$2,000 funding amount, plus final report. Bernadette spoke with garden manager and she says she will get it in.
  - NLR Community Farm: received 6-month report, still in need of receipts totaling \$1,900. KJ working on it. NLR CF has incorporated as a for-profit Benefit Corporation. The City Attorney's office has advised that they are no longer eligible for new funding since we can only fund nonprofits. Need to further investigate this since they are a Benefit Corporation, which is half non-profit and half for-profit.
  - Shorter College: Still owes receipts for \$784 & final report. Garden manager promises to get everything in by mid-month.

#### **Volunteer & harvest logs**

- Please send numbers to Beau and Sara by 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

#### **Compost**

- Please take pictures of yourself using your free compost from American Composting for their website!

### **4:00-4:15    Review of North Height Community Center's application for funding**

Committee reviewed application for approx. \$1,000 from North Heights Community Center.

The following questions arose and have been passed onto DeShawn Bryant with NLRPR (NLR Parks and Recreation). He will confer with the center directors and has promised a quick response.

- 1) Question 5 (Compost): Stated they wanted to have a compost bin and someone would turn the compost once per month. They will need to turn compost more than once per month. Probably once/week or every two weeks at least. No budget for a compost bin, so that will be an extra expense.
- 2) How/to whom will the produce be distributed?
- 3) Budget:
  - a. The metal steel roll fencing. Is that for a trellis or a fence? May not need a fence around the entire garden...
  - b. No budget for top soil. Is that something they can get for free through Parks?
  - c. They will probably need some other items they didn't budget for, such as a bucket and a wheelbarrow. That's why we authorized spending up to \$1,500 because those unexpected expenses will surely arise!

Robby McAllister made a motion to give the project \$1,000 immediately, and reserve an additional \$500 for any unexpected expenses. Diane Barton seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Bernadette working with Finance to transfer initial \$1,000.

#### **4:15-4:25 Garden Updates**

##### **North Little Rock Employee Garden – City Services**

Romaine and strawberries growing. Some plants returned from last year: Chamomile, alyssum, and bachelor buttons.

##### **R.O.C.A.N. Community Garden**

At least two adults per week stop by and talk. Jean sends them home with plants. Communal garden. All starts have been planted with Jordan's help (7-year-old girl). Jordan is a great help and will try anything from the garden. She also encourages other kids to get involved. Tomatoes are producing, corn, beans, okra, and squash coming up.

Bad news: Approx. 48 pavers stolen from beds on June 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone knows of a source for used pavers, please call Jean at 376-1991.

##### **St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology**

Strawberries planted, tomatoes good, plenty of greens, broccoli coming up. One volunteer is growing grapes, another donated saw to cut limbs on trees.

##### **First Presbyterian Church Community Garden**

Blackberries ripening. Public beds producing well. Beets very productive and have all been harvested. Radishes, scallions, and lettuce have also been picked. Replaced a lot of dirt in beds, put plastic underneath and weed cloth up the sides of the beds. Cuts down on water usage and deters Bermuda grass. The fence is working, there has been no theft or vandalism in private beds since it was erected. The fence also serves as a trellis for beans, peas, tomatoes, blackberries, and sunflowers.

##### **Fresh Veggies Idlewild**

Garden all planted and budding. Herb garden half full. Would love some herb cuttings from other gardens. Call Amy at: 519-0657.

Tip for growing sage: Cut it back after it blooms.

#### **St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden**

Garden is very much growing! Volunteers are keeping up with harvest and volunteer logs. They all want to win the prize for best “loggers”! Since weather has been a bit wet, Ruth is telling gardeners to expect mold, mildew, and squash bugs and providing direction on how to treat organically.

Still growing in greenhouse, but not much left in there.

Establishing a “Blessed Bee & Butterfly Garden” across driveway from garden and farmstand.

Put in 4 beehives nearby recently and bees are busy pollinating the garden!

Master Naturalists clearing fence lines and dealing with invasives around the property.

#### **St. Patrick’s Community Garden**

Had successful workday building new beds. Kids from the church’s daycare helped and have a bed at the garden.

Five 16’ beds planted for Mrs. Sykes’ food pantry

Six 12’ beds and twelve 8’ beds all adopted.

Still building handicap-accessible beds.

#### **4:25-4:30 Public Comment**

None.

#### **4:30 Meeting Adjourned**